

Appl. No. : 09/712,398
Filed : November 14, 2000

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method, comprising:
storing encrypted information associated with a computer program;
obtaining personal information as part of a startup sequence for said computer program; and
reading said encrypted information, decrypting information contained therein to obtain decrypted information, and comparing said personal information with said decrypted information; and
allowing said computer program to run normally only if said personal information agrees with said decrypted information in a specified way.

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2. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said personal information is biometric information, and said comparing comprises comparing said biometric information with other biometric information in said encrypted information.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 2, further comprising installing said computer program by entering a biometric code, sending said biometric code to a server, encrypting said biometric code at said server and returning an encrypted sequence to said ~~software~~ computer program as said encrypted information.

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4. (Original) A method as in claim 3, wherein said encrypting uses a private key at said server, and said decrypting verifies a signature of said private key.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 3, wherein said encrypting uses a private key at said server, and said decrypting uses a public key included as a part of said computer program.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising determining if a biometric reader is attached to a port, and wherein said program is only allowed to run if said biometric reader is attached to said port.

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7. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising allowing the software to run in a limited exception mode without establishing that said personal information agrees with said decrypted information.

8. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
requesting a computer system to install a specified computer program;
determining whether said computer program is verified for installation;
obtaining a reference biometric information from the an authorized user at the time of installing the software, responsive to said determining that said computer program is verified for installation; and
thereafter allowing said program to run normally only when biometric information is obtained which matches said reference biometric information.

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9. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 8 wherein said determining comprises determining if the a specified license used for said installation has already been used for another installation.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 8 wherein said determining uses a specified unique code that was distributed with the program, and determines from a server whether said unique code has already been used for an installation.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 8, further comprising, after determining that said installation is authorized, sending said reference biometric information to a server.

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12. (Original) A method as in claim 11, further comprising, at the server, encrypting said reference biometric information, and returning encrypted biometric reference information which is stored with said program, and which is used by said allowing.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein said allowing retrieves encrypted biometric information, decrypts said biometric information, and allows said program to run normally only if said decrypted biometric information matches a currently entered biometric information.

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14. (Original) A method as in claim 12, wherein said reference biometric information is encrypted at said server using a private key of a public key-private key pair, and said reference biometric information is decrypted when software is to be run, using said public key corresponding to said private key.

15. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
in a computer, ~~run~~ running an operating system, which includes an ability to run ~~an associated~~ a program;
at least one port, associated with said computer, said port capable of receiving at least one ~~vertebral~~ peripheral device thereon; and
a user interface, associated with said computer, receiving a command to run a specified program, and operating to decrypt encrypted reference biometric information associated with said specified program, to compare currently-obtained biometric information with said reference biometric information, and which allows said specified program to run in a specified way only when said currently-obtained biometric information matches said reference biometric information.

16. (Original) A system as in claim 15, wherein said operating system operates to first detect whether a biometric reading device is attached to said port, and then detect whether biometric information has been received from said biometric reading device, said program being allowed to run in said specified way only when both said biometric reading device is attached, and biometric information which is received matches said reference biometric information.

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17. (Original) A system as in claim 15, wherein said operating system decrypts said reference biometric information.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A system as in claim 17,~~ A system,
comprising:
a computer, running an operating system, which includes an ability to run a
program;
at least one port, associated with said computer, said port capable of receiving at
least one peripheral device thereon; and
a user interface, associated with said computer, receiving a command to run a
specified program, and operating to decrypt encrypted reference biometric information
associated with said specified program, compare currently-obtained biometric
information with said reference biometric information, and allows said specified program
to run in a specified way only when said currently-obtained biometric information
matches said reference biometric information;
wherein said operating system decrypts said reference biometric information;
and
wherein said operating system determines a time and when current biometric
information is obtained, and compares said time with the current time, and allows said
program to run in in said specified way only when said time is within a specified interval
of said current time.

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19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable media, containing instructions causing the computer to:

detect a request to run a specified already-installed program;

obtain current biometric information;

decrypt an encrypted reference information including reference biometric information therein, and obtaining reference biometric information therefrom;

~~compares~~ compare said reference biometric information with said current biometric information; and

allow said specified program to run into specified way only when said reference biometric information matches said current biometric information.

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20. (Currently Amended) ~~Instructions as in claim 19,~~ A computer readable media, containing instructions causing the computer to:

detect a request to run a specified program;

obtain current biometric information;

decrypt an encrypted reference information including reference biometric information therein, and obtaining reference biometric information therefrom;

compare said reference biometric information with said current biometric information;

allow said specified program to run into specified way only when said reference biometric information matches said current biometric information.; and

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wherein said compares also compares a time and current biometric information was obtained with a current time, and allows said specified program to run in the specified way only man when said time is within a specified interval of said current time.

AS 21. (Original) Instructions as in claim 19, wherein the specified way is an unrestricted run which does not detect a number of other executions or operations of said program.
